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The 'Hawks' Sour

As incredible as it seems to us, Kennedy, former Ambassador to the Christian Science Monitor can't understand why everyone got upset over the reported "soft" position of Ambassador Stevenson in the Cuban crisis and no one got very disturbed over the reported "hard" position advocated within the President's inner circle by other advisors. The Saturday Evening Post reported that Ambassador Stevenson favored trading Russian missile bases in Cuba for American missile bases around the Soviet perimeter. It reported that other advisors could be divided into two groups, the "Hawks" who favored a hard line and the "Doves" who favored a somewhat softer line.

The "hawks" favored an immediate air strike to eliminate the missile bases. Their membership is reported to have included CIA Chief John McCone, Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon, former Secretary of State Dean Acheson who was brought in as a elder statesman, General Maxwell Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of the service chiefs, and Presidential Assistant McGeorge Bundy.

The "doves" opposed an air strike and favored a limited blockade. Their membership included Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, Attorney General Robert

Russia Llewellyn Thompson, and Robert Lovett, another elder statesman.

The Post article reports that after considerable discussion the "hawks" tended to become less bellicose and the "doves" tended to become more firm and that a merging of positions came about resulting in the sea blockade with plans to follow through, if necessary, with direct military intervention in Cuba.

Now, the Christian Science Monitor can't understand why the public has not raged equally against Mr. Stevenson's reported position and against the "Hawks", whose position it asserts "would have been equally foolhardy policy."

May we offer an explanation?

The American people have been so fed up with Administration vacillation on Cuba, with Administration timidity that foolhardy or not it would have eagerly supported military intervention in Cuba to rid the island of Soviet arms and Fidel Castro, the Soviet puppet. Rather than equal condemnation, we suspect that the "hawks" have won praise in the hearts of most Americans.